

the first topics I hear about from local businesses and high-tech companies is their need for people with high-tech skills. A Poulsbo company, Paladin Data, has taken their efforts to find skilled employees to a new level by donating its time and resources to train teachers in some of Washington state's public schools. For its commitment to working with teachers, improving student learning and expanding their skills, I am pleased to present Paladin Data with one of my "Innovation in Education" Awards.

Several years ago, seven school districts in Kitsap, Mason, and Pierce Counties developed the West Sound School-to-Career Consortium which provides approximately 14,000 students with high-tech classes. This year Paladin Data will begin its first year of a three-year project that provides high-tech training to teachers involved with the West Sound School-to-Career program. Paladin Data is also contributing \$50,000 in matching funds to a state grant of \$100,000 to provide needed curriculum materials and onsite teacher training in either a Paladin facility in Poulsbo or at a designated school district site. Moreover, each school district will determine what training their teachers will receive based on the needs of their district and their students.

Paladin is giving our teachers more information and skills that they can take back to their classrooms and shows teachers what skills employers are looking for in perspective employees, giving their students a leg up on the competition. Paladin's involvement is not only improving the education of our students, but also giving them an accurate picture of what skills they need well-before they enter the job market.

The Washington Software Alliance reports that over 64,000 computer-related jobs are currently unfilled in the State of Washington—all for lack of properly trained workers. I find it encouraging to see companies like Paladin Data, that are contributing to our booming economy, are taking an active role in ensuring the quality education of our children. I am proud to acknowledge Paladin Data Systems Corporation's commitment to education and I look forward to hearing about more companies making a contribution to our children's future.●

HONORING DR. WAYNE S. KNOTSON

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Dr. Wayne S. Knutson, of Vermillion, South Dakota, a distinguished member of the arts community. On December 11, 1999, the University of South Dakota renamed Theatre I of the Warren M. Lee Center for the Fine Arts in Dr. Knutson's honor. This is an honor he richly deserves.

Dr. Knutson has had a distinguished career as an educator, artist, and administrator at the University of South Dakota and in the state arts community over the past fifty years. His tenure at USD began in 1952 as Professor of Speech and Dramatic Art and Director of University Theatre. Subsequently, he has also held the positions of Professor and Chair of the Department of English (1966–1971), Dean and Professor of Fine Arts (1972–1980), Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Professor of Fine Arts (1980–1982), and Professor of English and Theatre (1982–1986). In 1987, Dr. Knutson was appointed by the South Dakota Board of Regents as the first University Distinguished Professor.

As a member of the arts community, he has also served on the Literature Panel of the National Endowment for the Arts (1975–1977) and as chairperson of both the South Dakota Arts Council (1971–1978) and the South Dakota Humanities Council (1989–1991).

Dr. Knutson's honors include a Distinguished Service Award from the Speech Communication Association of South Dakota, the Governor's Award for Distinction in the Arts, the Burlington-Northern Faculty Achievement Award, a South Dakota Arts Council Senior Fellowship for Play Direction, and an award for Outstanding Achievement in the Humanities from the South Dakota Humanities Council.

In addition to his instrumental work as a professor and an actively involved member of the arts community, Dr. Knutson is also an accomplished author, director, and playwright. He wrote "The Dakota Descendants of Ola Rue" and "Dream Valley", as well as a number of articles on theatre for *Dramatics* magazine and a short history of the University of South Dakota. He has directed over sixty-five plays and musicals for USD, the Black Hills Playhouse, Pierre Players, Lewis and Clark Theatre, and the Group Theatre of Rapid City. He has also written ten plays and opera librettos, one of which was aired on Voice of America.

Mr. President, Dr. Knutson has a immensely enriched life in South Dakota and the honor of having Theatre I at USD renamed the "Wayne S. Knutson" is one he highly deserves. He has been an extraordinary pioneer and supporter of the arts. He is a man of great scholarship and knowledge, and will continue to shape the arts community for years to come. It is an honor for me to share the accomplishments of Dr. Wayne S. Knutson with my colleagues and to publicly commend him on his talent and commitment to the arts and education.●

HONORING BRIANNE COX AND GIRL SCOUT TROOP 290

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today to publicly commend Girl Scout Troop 290 of Yankton, South Dakota.

The girls of Troop 290 have worked especially hard this last year, donating their time and energy to the community. Their wonderful efforts to enhance the lives of many unfortunate South Dakotans at Christmas and Thanksgiving, to assist the community's elderly, to aid impoverished people in Haiti, and to undertake many other key projects has had a very important positive impact in the world around them.

Sadly, on November 24, 1999, Brianne Cox, a member of Troop 290, was killed in a tragic accident. She was active not only in Scouts, but enjoyed soccer, softball, dance, violin, trumpet, cross country, basketball, and many other activities. This young lady had a wonderful spirit that touched everyone who knew her.

In her name, the Troop 290 scouts have undertaken a very special project. These wonderful girls want to keep Brianne's memory alive and stay close to her family. To this end, they hold a fundraiser every summer to raise money for the 'Brianne Cox Memorial Fund'. This effort, in the name of a special girl, will designate funds to other middle school students who wish to participate in the many activities Brianne enjoyed, and who otherwise could not afford it.

Mr. President, these girls are true examples of charity and goodness. Their work to elevate the spirit of their hometown is inspiration in itself, but added to their work to keep Brianne Cox's memory alive, is truly extraordinary. I am pleased to be able to share their story with my colleagues and to be able to publicly commend their work.●

THE SAGINAW COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING HONORS MS. HAZEL WILSON

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on March 31, 2000, the Saginaw County Commission on Aging will hold a luncheon honoring four women who have selflessly dedicated a significant amount of their time and their energy to improving the community of Saginaw, Michigan. Their tremendous efforts over the years have not only touched a great many lives, they have truly changed lives, whether by providing those in need with food and clothing, saving seniors hundreds of dollars in medical insurance payments, mentoring elementary school students, or helping people to understand and accept a culture different from their own. Thus, I rise today on behalf not only of myself, but also of the entire Saginaw County, Michigan, community, to sincerely thank Ms. Hazel Wilson, Ms. Mary Flannery, Ms. Sue Kaltenbach, and Ms. Yoko Mossner for their incredible efforts.

Ms. Hazel Wilson has been a Saginaw community leader for more than thirty

years. Her charitable endeavors include working for the Family Independence Agency in the 1960s, counseling laid-off auto workers for the UAW-GM Human Resource Center in the late eighties, serving on the Board of Trustees for the Saginaw Public Schools, and also serving on the Board of Directors for the Saginaw Voluntary Action Center. For the last ten years, she has been employed by the Saginaw County Community Mental Health Authority as a Prevention Coordinator.

Ms. Wilson demonstrated her outstanding leadership capabilities, and indelibly left her mark on the Saginaw community, when in the early 1970s she established the Good Neighbors Mission. Ms. Wilson's original goal in establishing this organization was to provide needy families with food and clothing. But because of her dedication the Good Neighbors Mission has continually grown, to the point where today it stands as a community resource center, a hub of activity, and, I am told, a virtual clearinghouse, where people can find help fulfilling much more than just their food and clothing needs.

Aside from working as a Prevention Coordinator, Ms. Wilson is also currently a member of the Zion Baptist Church, Zeta Phi Beta sorority, the Michigan T.A.G. Workgroup, and the Michigan Prevention Association. I take great pride in recognizing community-oriented constituents like Ms. Wilson, and I applaud the Saginaw County Commission on Aging for ensuring that her efforts are not overlooked. On behalf of the United States Senate, I extend gratitude to Ms. Wilson for her dedication and work for her community.●

THE SAGINAW COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING HONORS MS. MARY FLANNERY

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on March 31, 2000, the Saginaw County Commission on Aging will hold a luncheon honoring four women who have selflessly dedicated a significant amount of their time and their energy to improving the community of Saginaw, Michigan. Their tremendous efforts over the years have not only touched a great many lives, they have truly changed lives, whether by providing those in need with food and clothing, saving seniors hundreds of dollars in medical insurance payments, mentoring elementary school students, or helping people to understand and accept a culture different from their own. Thus, I rise today on behalf not only of myself, but also of the entire Saginaw County, Michigan, community, to sincerely thank Ms. Hazel Wilson, Ms. Mary Flannery, Ms. Sue Kaltenbach, and Ms. Yoko Mossner for their incredible efforts.

Ms. Mary Flannery has been a resident of Saginaw, Michigan, long

enough to remember that an ice cream cone once cost a mere three cents there. For many years, she was an employee of the Family Independence Agency. Fortunately for the citizens of Saginaw, no one has reminded Ms. Flannery that she has in fact retired from her position there. She remains a regular fixture at local hospitals and nursing homes, and also continues to volunteer her time at the Commission on Aging.

At the Commission on Aging, she shares the knowledge and skills she collected while working at the Family Independence Agency, assisting seniors who have questions related to Medicare, Medicaid, and general health insurance. I am told that Ms. Flannery's expertise, and her willingness to venture beyond the call of duty, have saved Saginaw's seniors thousands of dollars they may have spent on duplicated medical bills or services. I guess when one has lived their life aiding individuals in need, even retirement cannot prevent them from continuing to do so.

Mr. President, on behalf of the entire United States Senate, I take pride in extending gratitude to Ms. Mary Flannery for her dedication to making the lives of others better. She is truly a role model for us all.●

THE SAGINAW COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING HONORS MS. SUE KALTENBACH

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on March 31, 2000, the Saginaw County Commission on Aging will hold a luncheon honoring four women who have selflessly dedicated a significant amount of their time and their energy to improving the community of Saginaw, Michigan. Their tremendous efforts over the years have not only touched a great many lives, they have truly changed lives, whether by providing those in need with food and clothing, saving seniors hundreds of dollars in medical insurance payments, mentoring elementary school students, or helping people to understand and accept a culture different from their own. Thus, I rise today on behalf not only of myself, but also of the entire Saginaw County, Michigan, community, to sincerely thank Ms. Hazel Wilson, Ms. Mary Flannery, Ms. Sue Kaltenbach, and Ms. Yoko Mossner for their incredible efforts.

Ms. Sue Kaltenbach has been a resident of Saginaw County for thirty-seven years. During this time, she has served the Saginaw Township Community School Board in many ways: as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer. She was also once president of the Saginaw County School Board Association, a vice president of the Assistance League of Saginaw, president of the Saginaw County Lawyer's Auxiliary. In addition, Ms. Kaltenbach

served the Junior League of Saginaw Valley as a corresponding secretary and the Street Smarts Investment Club as recorder.

Ms. Kaltenbach has been a mentor at Coulter Elementary School since 1996, as part of the H.O.S.T.S. program. She participates on the Election Scheduling Committee for Saginaw County, and is involved with numerous educational programs dealing with art, literature, drug abuse prevention and law related education. She is also chairperson of Family in Action, a former member of the Christian Service Commission and the Paris Council and a member at St. Stephen's Church.

Perhaps the most remarkable thing about Ms. Kaltenbach is that she has managed to do all of this while placing her primary focus upon raising her own three children. Mr. President, on behalf of the entire United States Senate, I applaud Ms. Sue Kaltenbach for her outstanding contributions to her community.●

THE SAGINAW COMMISSION ON AGING HONORS MS. YOKO MOSSNER

● Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, on March 31, 2000, the Saginaw County Commission on Aging will hold a luncheon honoring four women who have selflessly dedicated a significant amount of their time and their energy to improving the community of Saginaw, Michigan. Their tremendous efforts over the years have not only touched a great many lives, they have truly changed lives, whether by providing those in need with food and clothing, saving seniors hundreds of dollars in medical insurance payments, mentoring elementary school students, or helping people to understand and accept a culture different from their own. Thus, I rise today on behalf not only of myself, but also of the entire Saginaw County, Michigan, community, to sincerely thank Ms. Hazel Wilson, Ms. Mary Flannery, Ms. Sue Kaltenbach, and Ms. Yoko Mossner for their incredible efforts.

During the forty-three years that she has lived in Saginaw County, Ms. Yoko Mossner has become involved with numerous organizations. She served as president and treasurer of People to People Chapter Seven, was a member of the Board of Trustees of People to People International, and has also held various leadership roles in the Saginaw's Culture Club, the Women's National Farm and Garden Association, the Saginaw County Lawyers' Auxiliary, and the Valparaiso University Guild. She is a former member of the Saginaw Zonta Club, and is currently a member of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

More importantly, Ms. Mossner has played a leading role in finding Japanese culture a place in Saginaw County. For the last six years, she has